

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 263

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Margaret Ann Robinson
of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of Margaret Ann Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ann Robinson was an exemplary public servant and consummate
professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in
numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born September 14, 1924, in Nashville, Margaret Ann Robinson was the
daughter of Edwin Wilson Craig and Elizabeth Wade Craig; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson attended Parmer Elementary School and Ward-Belmont
School in Nashville and The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania; she also attended
Vanderbilt University and Finch College in New York City; and

WHEREAS, beginning her lifelong volunteer work at a young age, she was active in the
American Red Cross during World War II, serving as chair of the Nashville-Davidson County
Chapter of the Motor Corps; she learned how to drive large trucks and do mechanical work, and
she had a regular route around the city, collecting blood donations that could be shipped
overseas. As a photographer at Nashville's Thayer Hospital for wounded soldiers, she provided
the young men with photos for family members anxious for news on their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, Margaret Ann Robinson married attorney Walter McLaren
Robinson, Jr.; after a short time in New York City, the couple returned to Nashville, and Mr.
Robinson went to work as an attorney for National Life and Accident Insurance Company. They
were married for fifty-five years until his passing in 2004; and

WHEREAS, her paternal grandfather, Cornelius Abernathy Craig, was a founder of the
National Life and Accident Insurance Company, and her family was closely involved in the

business for three generations; under her father's leadership, the company founded WSM Radio and Television as well as the Grand Ole Opry. Later, under her husband's tenure as chief executive officer, the company launched Opryland, the Opryland Hotel, and the General Jackson excursion boat; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, along with five other couples, founded The Ensworth School; Mrs. Robinson served as the school's first registrar and a longtime trustee, and she continued to play a critical role in Ensworth's development and expansion; and

WHEREAS, she served on the board of Travellers Rest Historic House Museum for many years, chaired its Country Fair fundraiser several times, and managed promotion for the historic site; she hired its first full-time director and co-chaired the campaign to build an education center on its grounds. She was the 1994 recipient of The Garden Club of America's Zone IX Conservation Award for her work; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Mrs. Robinson was the Honorary Chair of Nashville's first Boulevard Bolt to benefit the Campus for Human Development, helping to initiate an event that has raised more than \$2,060,000 to benefit the city's homeless population and has become a staple of Thanksgiving Day in the city; and

WHEREAS, she also served on the board of directors of Grassmere Nature Center, now the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, and she was on the Cheekwood Botanical Gardens planning committee, which developed a master plan for expansion of the gardens and development of an education center; and

WHEREAS, a longtime member of the Junior League of Nashville, Margaret Ann Robinson was chairman of the league's annual Paper Sale Drive to benefit the Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, and she received the organization's Sustainer of the Year award in 2001; and

WHEREAS, first appointed in 1977 by Mayor Richard Fulton, Mrs. Robinson served on the board of the Nashville Public Library until the time of her death, serving as the board chair for twenty-five years; she also played an important role in the creation of the Nashville Public Library Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to raise money for library facilities and programs, and served on the foundation's board from its creation until her passing; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ann Robinson was instrumental in lobbying the Metro Council for a \$124 million expansion program of the Nashville Public Library system, which resulted in the construction of a new downtown Main Branch library and four new regional branches, as well as the renovation of eighteen existing branches; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson hosted a reception for Congressman John Lewis at her home when he visited Nashville to receive the 2016 Nashville Public Library Literary Award, and she served on the 2016 Gala Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her many years of public service, Mrs. Robinson was honored with numerous awards, including the 1997 Mic Award from WPLN-Nashville Public Radio, YWCA's 2001 Women of Achievement Award, the Tennessee Library Association's 2001 Trustee Award, the 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award from *Nfocus*, and FiftyForward's 2010 Crowning Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, she was an active and devout member of St. George's Episcopal Church, which she had served faithfully since its founding in 1949, and she was a past member of the vestry; she and her husband helped establish the church as a mission church from Christ Church Cathedral; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ann Robinson was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she was the proud mother of Ann (Owen) Robinson Kelly, Emmie (Steve) Robinson Rick, Libby (Ben) Robinson Page, and Walter McLaren Robinson III, M.D.; the treasured grandmother of Jonathan Wade (Melissa) Rick, Amanda Sinclair Kelly, Jeremy MacLaren (Beth) Kelly, Neil Payne Rick, and Florence Ann (Cooper) Page Brown; and the doting great-grandmother of Margaret Belle Rick and Edwin Wells Rick; she is lovingly remembered by her first cousin, Peggy Henry Joyce, and her brother-in-law, Charles Henry Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Robinson was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her sister, Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor; her brother, Cornelius Abernathy Craig II; her cousin, Tennessee State Senator Douglas S. Henry, Jr.; and her great-grandson, James Walter Rick; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ann Robinson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Margaret Ann Robinson, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Robinson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.